

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2146 without my signature.

I share the author's concern for our marine resources and the safety of our State's fishing fleet. However, I am concerned that the significant changes this bill mandates in the Dungeness crab fishery should be considered and addressed through the Fish and Game Commission following its thorough review and open public hearing process.

One of the principal tasks of the Fish and Game Commission is the regulation and management of our State's fisheries. This bill enacts statutory changes to management of the Dungeness crab fishery that will complicate the Commission's ability to respond to fishery dynamics and render the fishery inflexible. Such an effort to preference one segment of the fishery over another should not be made without significant scientific and biological analysis, public discussion and consideration of alternatives. That is the role of the Fish and Game Commission.

I encourage the Legislature to vest the Commission with fishery management responsibility for Dungeness crab and then let the Commission proceed with the dozens of complex decisions necessary to effect sustainable fishery management.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger